

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 and 37-44 have been cancelled without prejudice. Consequently, claims 21-36 are currently pending and under consideration. In the Office Action, the applicants were required to elect one of the following invention groups:

- I. Claims 21-36, drawn to methods including the steps of forming an incision and expressing body fluid from the incision, classified in class 606, subclass 181.
- II: Claims 37-44, drawn to a sampling device including a constricting member, a stimulating member and a skin-lancing mechanism, classified in class 600, subclass 573.

In response to the restriction requirement, the Applicants hereby elect for prosecution, without traversal, the Group I invention, which correspond to claims 21-36. As a result of this election, claims 37-44 have been cancelled for consideration in a potential divisional application.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action in the most expedient fashion. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 

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Page 5 of 5